MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 322 ...(*Interruptions*)... Q. No. 323 ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री लालू प्रसाद: सभापति महोदय, देश की जनता सवाल कर रही है।...**(व्यवधान)**... गुजरात जल रहा है।...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: सभापति महोदय, गुजरात की स्थिति सामान्य नहीं है। इसलिए क्वेश्चन आॅवर को सस्पेंड करके गुजरात पर चर्चा होनी चाहिए।...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री एस॰एस॰ अहलुवालिया: सभापति महोदय, ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: सभापति महोदय ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q.No. 324 ...(*Interruptions*)...

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of platform for arbitration to encourage foreign investment

*321. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign and domestic business is hampered in the country for want of remedial platform of arbitration; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps proposed for efficacious and time-bound settlement of such cases to encourage more foreign investment?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Monitoring of banking system

*322. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an independent agency to monitor the banking system effectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have reviewed the working of Debt Recovery Tribunals;

(d) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the success achieved by DRTs in the recovery of debts;

(e) whether Government received suggestions from the All India Bank Officers' Association on improvement of banks' functioning;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India, which is an autonomous institution, already exists to regulate and supervise banking system.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The performance of Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) was last reviewed in a meeting taken on 2nd July, 2001 with Presiding Officers of DRTs, Chairpersons of Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs) and Chairman & Managing Directors of Public Sector Banks/Financial Institutions. At present 28 DRTs and 5 DRATs are functioning. The overall performance of DRTs is satisfactory. Upto 30th September, 2001 DRTs had disposed off 18,803 cases involving amount of Rs. 14,026 crores (decreed amount of Rs. 7,065 crores). An amount of Rs. 3,527 crores have been recovered.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Indirect agricultural advances by private banks

*323. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the private sector banks which have extended indirect agricultural advances far in excess of the maximum percentage while their direct agricultural advances fell far short of prescribed amounts or even negligible compared to indirect lending contrary to the advice of the Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) the action Government have taken or propose to take against such erring banks?